

So what has happened is the European Union, the Chinese, the Canadians, and others have been actively pursuing agreements while we have been on the sidelines because we have not had trade promotion authority. So not only does this give us an opportunity, with this possible agreement with the European Union—which would be an agreement not like a free trade agreement but would be a partnership on investment, on standards, on being sure there is a harmonization that is more like the beneficial metrics that we use in this country that can help both in our economy and, as the Senator says, globally—none of this can happen without us being able to say we are going to have the possibility of taking trade agreements to the Congress for an up-or-down vote—a fair vote. Every one of these agreements will have to be voted on separately because in these other countries they will not put that last, best offer on the table until they know that. They are not going to be nicked and dined and amended to death as they get to the Congress. That is just reality.

We have to get off the sidelines. We have to get reengaged. We have to help our economy, our workers to get their fair share, to get their market share. Right now we are losing that market share, as literally over 100 trade agreements have been negotiated while we have been sitting on the sidelines without having trade promotion authority on both bilateral and regional agreements.

So the Senator is absolutely correct. This is a great opportunity for us to, frankly, take this anemic economy and give it a little shot in the arm. It is part of an overall effort we ought to be doing to provide the kind of economic opportunity we all want for the people we represent.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am happy to yield to the Senator from Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I think we should all be listening to this man, this Senator from Ohio, who has had a wealth of experience not just in budget matters but also especially in these trade matters.

There are 11 countries in the TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and we would like to come to an agreement on it. There are 28 different countries in the European agreement on TTIP that we would like to bring to fruition, and you can go on from there.

Having said that, I cannot compliment my friend from Ohio enough. But I also want to pay tribute to our chairman of the committee. He is willing to do this. He believes in it. He has had plenty of witness that this is the way to do good trade, and he is willing to stand up and see that it is done. I cannot think of a better sendoff to China as the new Ambassador—as soon

as we finally finish these confirmation proceedings—than having passed TPA, which enables us to do free trade agreements all over the world and enables our fellow countries to realize that we can get it done.

I want to pay tribute to the chairman, as well as my colleague from Ohio, for their work in this area, and to say that this country will be much the better once we pass TPA and then get these trade agreements done so the United States resumes its role in the world as the world's chief economic competitor, and doing it in a way that would benefit the whole world but, more importantly, benefit this country.

So I want to thank my colleague from Montana, and my colleague from Ohio as well. My colleague from Montana is going to be here at least a little bit longer, and hopefully we can get this passed in his honor. I think he deserves that honor. I know the distinguished Senator from Ohio and myself will do everything in our power to assist in this matter.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank the Senator.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2627. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2628. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2629. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2630. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2631. Mr. REID (for Mr. REED) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2632. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2631 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED) to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2633. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2634. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2633 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2635. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2634 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2633 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1845, supra.

SA 2636. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2637. Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2638. Mr. REID (for Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID, of NV to the resolution S. Res. 312, urging the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history.

SA 2639. Mr. REID (for Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID, of NV to the resolution S. Res. 312, supra.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2627.** Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

(a) FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS.—Paragraph (2)(E) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “by 120” and inserting “by 174”.

(b) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—Paragraph (4)(A) of section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “30 hours” and inserting “40 hours”.

**SA 2628.** Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1845, to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Add at the end the following:

#### TITLE II—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

#### SEC. 201. STEERING FEDERAL TRAINING DOLLARS TOWARD SKILLS NEEDED BY INDUSTRY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(54) CREDENTIAL.—

“(A) INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED.—The term ‘industry-recognized’, used with respect to a credential, means a credential that is sought or accepted by employers within the industry sector involved as recognized, preferred, or required for recruitment, screening, hiring, or advancement. If a credential is not yet available for a certain skill that is sought or accepted, completion of an industry-recognized training program shall be considered to be an industry-recognized credential, for the purposes of this paragraph.

“(B) NATIONALLY PORTABLE.—The term ‘nationally portable’, used with respect to credential, means a credential that is sought or accepted as described in subparagraph (A) across multiple States.

“(C) REGIONALLY RELEVANT.—The term ‘regionally relevant’, used with respect to a credential, means a credential that is determined by the Governor and the head of the State workforce agency to be sought or accepted as described in subparagraph (A) in that State and neighboring States.

“(55) STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY.—The term ‘State workforce agency’ means the lead State agency with responsibility for workforce investment activities carried out under subtitle B.”

(b) YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—Section 129(c)(1)(C) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2854(c)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (ii) through (iv) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively; and

(2) inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) training, with priority consideration given, after consultation with the Governor and the head of the State workforce agency and beginning not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act,